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THE NEW MUTANTS™

BOB McLEOD '82

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SENTINELS

STARRING THE NEW MUTANTS

IN A BIG ROOM, IN A BIG HOUSE, IN THE SUBURBAN ENVIRONS OF NEW YORK CITY...

... A YOUNG GIRL RUNS FOR HER LIFE.

THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING TO ME!

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HER NAME IS DANIELLE MOON-STAR, ALSO KNOWN AS PSYCHE.

OH!

SHE IS A MUTANT...

...WITH THE ABILITY TO TAKE A PERSON'S DEEPEST, DARKEST THOUGHTS--THEIR PRIMAL HOPES OR FEARS--AND CREATE INTANGIBLE, THREE-DIMENSIONAL IMAGES OF THEM.

THAT POWER--THOUGH FORMIDABLE--WILL NOT SAVE HER NOW.

SHE'S BEGINNING TO BELIEVE NOTHING CAN.

OH, NO!

THE MONSTER'S STILL COMING AFTER ME!

I'VE GOTTA CLIMB HIGHER--FASTER--GET OUT OF ITS REACH!

MADE IT!

ON THIS LEDGE, I THINK-- I HOPE-- I PRAY-- I'M SAFE.

I... SURE FEEL BEAT-- I DOUBT I CAN MOVE ANOTHER STEP.

I NEVER DREAMED A BODY COULD BE SO SCARED... OR TIRED.

IT TAKES A WHILE FOR DANI TO CATCH HER BREATH. AND WHEN SHE DOES...

WOW.

I KEEP TELLING MYSELF I'M IN THE *DANGER ROOM*, BUT THE ILLUSION IT CREATES IS SO PERFECT...

SOMETHING IS TERRIBLY WRONG. WHEN *PROFESSOR XAVIER* BRIEFED US ON ITS OPERATION...

... HE SHOWED US THIS SET AND SAID IT WAS A TOP-OF-THE-LINE TRAINING SEQUENCE-- FAR TOO DANGEROUS FOR US KIDS. SO HOW COME I'M STUCK IN IT?

I'D JUST FINISHED A WORKOUT IN HERE WHEN I WAS ZAPPED. SOMEONE IS TRYING TO KILL ME-- BUT WHO? AND WHY?!?

I'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT WHEN I GET OUTTA THIS MESS. THIS ESCARPMENT PROBABLY MARKS THE ROOM'S WALL. IF I FOLLOW THE LEDGE...

... SOONER OR LATER I SHOULD REACH THE EXIT DOOR--

--YYIII!!

REGRETTABLY, YOUNGLING, THAT SALVATION WILL BE DENIED YOU.

I WOULD MUCH PREFER TO SEE YOU HOST MY PROGENY, BUT YOU ARE TOO DANGEROUS. YOU ALONE HAVE SENSED MY PRESENCE. YOU ALONE COULD BRING ABOUT MY DESTRUCTION.

THEREFORE, YOU MUST DIE!

MY FOOT--

-- I'M FALLING!

HER SCREAM ENDS IN A GRUNT OF PAIN--

-- AS SHE CRASHES THROUGH TOWERING TREES AND JUNGLE FOLIAGE TO HARD, UNYIELDING EARTH.

HER LAST THOUGHT IS OF HER PARENTS-- SLAIN SO MANY YEARS AGO.

AT LAST, DANI BELIEVES, SHE'S ON HER WAY TO JOIN THEM IN THE OTHERWORLD. SHE HOPES THEY'LL BE HAPPY TO SEE HER.

ELSEWHERE...

...IN SALEM CENTER MALL-- NAMED, APTLY ENOUGH, FOR THE TOWN NEAR WHICH IT WAS BUILT-- WE FIND DANI'S FELLOW STUDENTS AT PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS, TOGETHER WITH ONE OF THEIR TEACHERS, FORMER PRIMA BALLERINA STEVIE HUNTER.

CINEMA

"E.T." PG

FOXY'S

Mr. Mom

SALE

SNIFF!

IT'S ALL RIGHT TO CRY, RAHNE. NEARLY EVERYONE DOES.

OCH, MISS HUNTER, IT WAS SO BEAUTIFUL. I WAS SO HAPPY WHEN THE WEE BAIRN WAS RESCUED...

THAT'S TH' IDEA, RAHNE.

DID YOU TRULY THINK "E.T." WAS A REAL PERSON, A MUTANT LIKE US? IT WAS ONLY A PUPPET, RAHNE.

BUT HE WAS SO LIFE-LIKE!

I'M SUCH A SILLY. I'M SORRY. IT'S JUST-- I'VE NE'ER VISITED A CINEMA BEFORE. IT ALL SEEMED LIKE MAGIC.

ENJOY YOUR ICE CREAM, KIDS, WHILE I PHONE HOME TO MAKE SURE THINGS THERE ARE OKAY. I SHOULDN'T BE LONG.

310 FLAVORS

ORRY- UT OF VANILLA

YOU GUYS ARE NEW IN TOWN. HOW COME WE AIN'T SEEN YOU IN SCHOOL?

WE ARE STUDENTS AT XAVIER'S.

THAT'S A BIG CHANGE.

SINCE WHEN DO YOU ELITE TYPES MINGLE WITH US COMMON FOLK?

WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN, *HOMBRE*?

RELAX, BOBBY.

YOU SIMMER DOWN, TOO, WILLYA, FRANK? YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A JERK.

MY NAME'S DIANA-- CALL ME DI-- WE GO TO CENTRAL HIGH.

HOW D'YOU DO, DI. I'M *RAHNE SINCLAIR*.

BANANA FUDGE NUT

MINT LOAT

NEAT NAME, "*RAIN*"-- KINDA LIKE MOON UNIT ZAPPA, Y'KNOW. I LOVE YOUR HAIR, GIRL. I WISH I COULD GET MINE TO LOOK LIKE THAT.

ARE YOU PUNK, OR NEW WAVE?

I'M SCOTS.

NO FOOLIN'? THAT GO FOR THE REST O' YOU?

HARDLY. SAM IS FROM THE STATES, I'M BRAZILIAN, AND SHAN IS FROM VIETNAM. WE'RE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS.

ROBERTO!?!

RAHNE SINCLAIR FEMALE 14 YRS. 95 LBS. 4'11"

ROBERTO DA COSTA MALE 13 YRS. 125 LBS. 5'4"

SAM GUTHRIE MALE 16 YRS. 170 LBS. 6'

XI'AN COY MANH FEMALE 19 YRS. 105 LBS. 5'3"

THE BOY THINKS HE'S MAKING A JOKE.

BUT HE SPEAKS CLOSER TO THE TRUTH THAN HE KNOWS. HE AND HIS FELLOW MUTANTS POSE AS GRAVE A THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES -- AND THE WORLD -- AS ANY MADMAN WITH A GUN.

THAT'S WHY *PROJECT WIDE-AWAKE* WAS ESTABLISHED, SHAW, TO COMBAT THAT THREAT.

DO YOU BELIEVE, HENRY, AS SOME SO-CALLED "*EVIL MUTANTS*" HAVE BOASTED, THAT *HOMO SUPERIOR* WILL EVENTUALLY SUPPLANT *HOMO SAPIENS*, THAT HUMANITY WILL BECOME THEIR SLAVES?

THAT'S A DANGER, CERTAINLY, BUT IT WAS THAT BOY WHO UNWITTINGLY OUT-LINED THE PARA-METERS OF THE REAL PROBLEM. FOUR CHILDREN, SHAW, FROM FOUR DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. ALL MUTANTS.

THEY'RE POPPING UP LIKE FLIES, THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. SUPPOSE THE SOVIETS HAVE A TRAINED CADRE OF SUPER-POWERED MUTANT SOLDIERS? CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT THAT WOULD DO TO THE BALANCE OF POWER?

THE SMALLEST NATION ON EARTH, PROVIDED IT HAD THE RIGHT MIX OF MUTANTS, COULD BRING EVEN THE UNITED STATES TO ITS KNEES. WHO CAN SAY -- CONSIDERING OUR RECENT PAST, THAT MAY ALREADY BE HAPPENING.

WE HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUTANTS ARE CREATED -- WHAT SPECIFIC D.N.A. MATRIX CREATES WHICH ABILITY. IF WE'RE TO SURVIVE, WE MUST HAVE THOSE ANSWERS. AND *HENRY PETER GYRICH* IS HERE TO PROVIDE THEM.

ROBERTO daCOSTA-- THANKS TO THE PUBLIC INITIAL MANIFESTATION OF HIS ABILITIES*-- LED US TO THE OTHERS.

* SEE THE NEW MUTANTS GRAPHIC NOVEL-- STILL ON SALE --L.

I KNOW HIS FATHER. LIKE MYSELF, HE IS A MEMBER OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB.

BUT NOT ITS SECRET INNER CIRCLE--

--DEDICATED TO ACHIEVING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DOMINION OVER THE WORLD. EMMANUEL daCOSTA IS AN AMBITIOUS MAN. IF APPROACHED... PROPERLY, HE MIGHT WELL JOIN US.

POOR GYRICH. IF ONLY HE KNEW THAT ONE OF THE VERY MUTANTS HE'S SO CONCERNED ABOUT IS STANDING RIGHT BESIDE HIM, PLOTTING HIS EVENTUAL DOWNFALL.

FOR ALL THEIR YOUTH, THOUGH, I DARE NOT UNDERESTIMATE XAVIER'S NEW PROTEGES. THE THREAT WHICH BOUND THEM TOGETHER WAS MY FORMER ASSOCIATE-- DONALD PIERCE'S-- MAD DESIRE TO DESTROY ALL MUTANTS.

WITHOUT ANY FORMAL TRAINING-- SOME OF THEM HAVING ONLY JUST MANIFESTED THEIR POWERS-- THEY DEFEATED HIM.

FORGIVE ME, HENRY, BUT I HARDLY THINK THIS EQUIPMENT IS NECESSARY TO DEAL WITH CHILDREN.

SPARE ME YOUR SARCASM, SHAW. THESE GIANTS YOUR FACTORY BUILT LOOK FORMIDABLE--

-- BUT THEN, THEY ALWAYS DID.

IN MY BOOK, IT'S PERFORMANCE THAT COUNTS.

YOU'LL UNLEASH THESE AGAINST XAVIER'S STUDENTS?!

DON'T BE ABSURD! MY DIRECTIVE FROM THE PRESIDENT IS TO KEEP THIS PROJECT COMPLETELY UNDER WRAPS. I'LL USE 'EM, IF I HAVE TO, ON ADULTS-- VILLAINS. A TEAM OF AGENTS SHOULD SUFFICE TO CORRAL THE KIDS.

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK. YOUR PLAN, HENRY, IS ABOUT TO BACKFIRE.

WE'RE ESTABLISHING A FACILITY FOR THE CONTAINMENT AND EXAMINATION OF MUTANTS. THEY'LL BE TAKEN THERE.

I WISH TO MAKE THOSE CHILDREN AS PARANOID AS POSSIBLE-- SUSPICIOUS OF EVERY-ONE SAVE THEIR OWN KIND. SO THAT, IN TIME-- ONCE XAVIER HAS BEEN ELIMINATED-- WHEN THE HELLFIRE CLUB OFFERS THEM SANCTUARY, THEY'LL GLADLY ACCEPT.

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE MALL...

Hmmmmm--NO ANSWER.

BOTH CHARLES AND DANI SAID THEY'D BE HOME ALL AFTERNOON.

IF THEY WENT OUT, WHY DIDN'T THEY ACTIVATE THE RECORDACALL SYSTEM?

I'M PROBABLY IMAGINING THINGS. THEY COULD HAVE FORGOTTEN.

THERE ARE A MILLION ORDINARY EXPLANATIONS -- WHO SAYS ANYTHING HAS TO BE WRONG?

MMPGLPGH!

SHE STRUGGLES, TO NO AVAIL, AND WITHIN A MATTER OF A FEW HEARTBEATS, IS DRAGGED INTO A NEARBY STOREROOM...

... THE DOOR KICKED SHUT AND LOCKED BEHIND HER.

STOP STRUGGLING, Ms. HUNTER, I MEAN NO HARM.

I'M HERE AS A *FRIEND* -- TO YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS.

GIVE ME YOUR WORD THAT YOU'LL BEHAVE YOURSELF AND NOT SCREAM, AND I'LL LET YOU GO.

THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME, LADY, AND EACH SECOND YOU DELAY PLACES THOSE KIDS IN DEADLY DANGER.

WILL YOU TRUST ME?!

SHE NODS.

I'M SORRY FOR FRIGHTENING YOU LIKE THAT. I COULDN'T RISK ANYONE SEEING US.

WHO THE BLAZES *ARE* YOU, FREAK?

MICHAEL ROSSI-- COLONEL, AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE.

I'VE HEARD THE NAME-- FROM A FRIEND OF PROFESSOR XAVIER'S: *CAROL DANVERS.*

WE WERE COLLEAGUES.

AND LOVERS, SHE SAID.

THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO, IN A DIFFERENT WORLD.

WAITAMINNIT-- ACCORDING TO HER, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE *DEAD!*

TRUE. IT'S A BELIEF THAT SERVED ME TO GREAT ADVANTAGE OVER THE YEARS. YOU NEED MY HELP, Ms. HUNTER, AND THIS IS WHY...

HOWEVER, WHILE ROSSI BEGINS HIS STORY...

WE'RE HAVIN' A MIXER--THAT'S A DANCE, "RAIN"-- AT OUR SCHOOL NEXT MONTH. IT'S THE BIG BASH OF THE SEMESTER. WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME?

HEADS UP-- COPS!

SORRY OUT OF VANILLA

THEY'RE MOVIN' THIS WAY!

FEDERAL AGENTS. MISS MANH AND SINCLAIR, Mr. GUTHRIE AND da COSTA, IF YOU'LL COME WITH US, PLEASE.

HIS WORDS ARE PHRASED AS A QUESTION, BUT IT IS A COMMAND.

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, OFFICER? ARE WE UNDER ARREST?

JUST ROUTINE.

YOU'VE GOT A BIG MOUTH, BOY. CLOSE IT, BEFORE IT GETS YOU INTO TROUBLE.

WHAT'RE YOU HASSLIN' THEM FOR? THEY HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING-- LEAVE 'EM ALONE!

YOU DON'T SCARE ME.

YOUR MISTAKE.

MISS MANH, SHALL WE GO?

AT HOME, IN VIETNAM, THE POLICE WERE RARELY TO BE TRUSTED. MY UNCLE *NGUYEN* WAS A GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL POLICE--AND ONE OF THE CRUELIST AND MOST CORRUPT OF MEN.

STEVIE SAYS IT IS DIFFERENT HERE. THE AUTHORITIES ARE NOT TO BE FEARED. I PRAY SHE IS RIGHT.

WHAT ABOUT OUR TEACHER, Ms. HUNTER?

YOU CAN PHONE HER FROM HEADQUARTERS.

I SAY, WE WAIT FOR HER!

ROBERTO, *MON AMI*, LET US NOT MAKE A SCENE.

EVEN IF THESE MEN ARE ENEMIES, WE DARE NOT START A FIGHT...

...WHERE INNOCENT PEOPLE MIGHT BE INJURED.

AS THEY'RE ESCORTED FROM MALL TO PARKING LOT, THE STUDENTS HOPE STEVIE WILL POP UP TO SAVE THE DAY.

ONE OF THEM WANTS TO RUN, ANOTHER TO RESIST, BUT REGARDLESS OF THEIR PERSONAL FEELINGS, ALL FOLLOW SHAN'S LEAD. SHE'S THE OLDEST, SHE'S IN CHARGE, THEY'LL TAKE THEIR CUE FROM HER.

SHE IS AWARE OF THIS--AND WONDERS IF, BY DOING SO, THEY'RE NOT MAKING A BIG MISTAKE.

THEN... *FREEZE!* *SCATTER, KIDS!* WHAT THE--?! *AMBUSH!* WHOEVER THEY ARE, DROP 'EM *HARD!* BASE, TEAM SEVEN--TROUBLE! POTENTIAL EMERGENCY SITUATION. INITIATE CONTINGENCY PLAN BETA!

BE THANKFUL THIS IS SET FOR *STUN*, CHUM. NEXT TIME YOU MAY NOT BE SO LUCKY.

BEAT IT, YOU KIDS! I'LL KEEP THESE BOZOS OCCUPIED!

F-ZOOM!

GUNH!

NOT FOR LONG, YOU WON'T!

WHUNNFFF!

REACTING INSTINCTIVELY, SAM GUTHRIE -- CANNONBALL -- IGNITES HIS MUTANT POWER...

...BLAZING A TRAIL OF FIRE THROUGH THE AIR AS HE SLAMS INTO ONE OF THE AGENTS' CARS, DECKING ITS DRIVER IN THE PROCESS.

THE OTHER DRIVER CHOOSES THE BETTER PART OF VALOR...

...AND HEADS FOR THE NEAREST EXIT.

EXIT

EXIT

SCREECHH

UNFORTUNATELY, SUNSPOT GETS IN THE WAY.

SIMULTANEOUSLY, KARMA POSSESSES ANOTHER OF THE AGENTS BEFORE HE CAN PUT A BULLET IN ROBERTO'S BACK.

WHAMMO!

SEEING THE TABLES SUDDENLY, COMPLETELY TURN...

...THE TEAM LEADER ATTEMPTS HIS OWN ESCAPE...

...ONLY TO BE FROZEN IN HIS TRACKS AS HE BEHOLDS...

...RAHNE'S METAMORPHOSIS FROM GIRL TO WOLF. ONE LOOK AT HER BARED FANGS CONVINCES HIM TO BEHAVE HIMSELF.

WHAT HAVE WE *DONE?!* STEVIE, THESE GUYS ARE THE *GOVERNMENT!*

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, SON. SO AM I.

BULL!

PRETTY ROUGH LANGUAGE, CONSIDERING YOU WORK FOR A TECHNICALLY ILLEGAL OUTFIT. WE HAVE A LOT TO DISCUSS -- YOU AND I, THESE KIDS AND THEIR TEACHERS --

EXIT

--BUT THIS ISN'T THE PLACE TO DO IT.

I SUGGEST WE RETIRE TO XAVIER'S SCHOOL...

LOOK--THE CEILING!

CONTACT ESTABLISHED. SITUATION EVALUATED.

CONTINGENCY PLAN BETA NOW OPERATIONAL. OBJECTIVE: CAPTURE OF TARGET MUTANTS.

SENTINELS!

SENSORS MARK TARGETS AS ONE HUMAN, FOUR MUTANT. ARMED HUMAN IS PRIMARY THREAT. INITIATING APPROPRIATE RESPONSE.

GET OUT OF HERE! THEY SHOULDN'T FOLLOW YOU INTO THE MALL!

WE WON'T DESERT YOU! WE CAN HANDLE ONE ROBOT!

LISTEN TO ME, DUMMY-- I'VE FOUGHT THEM BEFORE! THEY USUALLY HUNT IN *PACKS*!

RUN FOR IT, BEFORE-- UNNNNNH

HE'S DOWN -- KAYO'D BY THAT GAS!

AH' BETTER CLEAR THIS CRITTER OUTTA THE GARAGE BEFORE HE ZAPS US THE SAME WAY!

WHOA! HE'S AS HEAVY AS HE LOOKS. SHIFTIN' HIM AIN'T EASY-- BUT AH'LL MANAGE!

OBSERVATION: SENTINEL LAMBDA-FOUR HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN ITS ATTEMPT TO SECURE ITS OBJECTIVES.

NEGATIVE DATA IN MEMORY BANKS REGARDING THIS MUTANT.

HOLY CATS STEVIE'S PAL WASN'T KIDDING!

WHERE'D THESE MONSTERS COME FROM?! WHY'RE THEY AFTER US?!?

KEY SENSORS TO FULL RECORD MODE. ABSORB ALL PERTINENT DATA REGARDING TARGETS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

YOU HEARD THE MAN! LET'S MOVE --ROBERTO!

YOU WOMEN CARRY HIM TO SAFETY-- SUMMON THE PROFESSOR IF YOU CAN-- I AM GOING TO HELP SAM!

ROBERTO, STOP! YOU HAVE NO IDEA OF WHAT WE ARE DEALING WITH!

NOR DO THOSE ROBOTS-- HEY!

THOOM!

THAT HAND-- IT'S AS BIG AS I AM!

ANOTHER ONE! I'M TRAPPED!

CAN'T SEEM... TO CATCH MY BREATH-- BEGINNING TO FEEL...SO WEAK... TIRED...

I'VE USED TOO MUCH ENERGY!

I DRAW MY POWER FROM THE SUN! INSIDE THE GARAGE-- CUT OFF FROM ITS DIRECT RAYS-- I WAS UNABLE TO RESTORE MYSELF. I HAVE TO GET OUT INTO THE OPEN!

BLESSED SAINTS! I FORGOT I WAS THREE STORIES HIGH!

I FEEL SO USELESS. MY POWER OF POSSESSION IS EFFECTIVE SOLELY AGAINST *LIVING* THINGS. IT CAN DO NOTHING TO THESE SENTINELS.

SHAN, STEVIE-- IT'S 'BERTO! HE'S *FALLING!*

RAHNE'S CHEST SEEMS TO TURN TO ICE AS SHE BECOMES MORE AFRAID THAN SHE'S EVER BEEN IN HER LIFE. SHE HAS PRECIOUS FEW FRIENDS. SHE CANNOT BEAR TO LOSE EVEN ONE.

ESPECIALLY ROBERTO.

SKRAM!

TARGET DaCOSTA UNHARMED.

EVIDENT BY-PRODUCT OF ENHANCED STRENGTH IS INCREASED PHYSICAL RESILIENCE.

THE ROBOT KNEW MY NAME!

ARE THEY TRULY AGENTS OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT? OR, AS STEVIE'S FRIEND SAID, ACTING OUTSIDE THE LAW? MY FATHER IS A MAN OF WEALTH AND INFLUENCE. IF PROFESSOR XAVIER CANNOT DEAL WITH THIS THREAT, HE WILL.

ALREADY, I FEEL THE SUNLIGHT DO ITS WORK.

I AM NOWHERE NEAR MY PEAK, BUT I CAN DELAY NO LONGER. I MUST MAKE DO WITH WHAT I HAVE.

BIOSCAN INDICATES TARGET HAS INSUFFICIENT STRENGTH TO DAMAGE THIS UNIT. MINIMAL DEFENSE REQUIRED.

THAT, ROBOT, REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
YOU FAIL TO CONSIDER HUMAN FORCE OF WILL...
... AND DETERMINATION!
NO! I THREW HIM THE WRONG WAY--
--TOWARDS THE MALL!
HEAVEN BE PRAISED, THERE APPEAR TO BE NO CASUALTIES.
THE ROBOT, THOUGH, IS FAR FROM FINISHED. IF HE RECOVERS, I DOUBT I'LL BE SO LUCKY A SECOND TIME -- IN ANY REGARD.
LET US SEE THEN HOW WELL IT CAN FUNCTION --
-- WITHOUT ITS HEAD!
THE FANDOM ZONE
COMIC BOOK PARAPHERNALIA

AH MANAGED T' SHIFT US CLEAR O' THE MALL, BUT MAH ATTACK DIDN'T SEEM T' FAZE THE CRITTER MUCH.

MAH BEST SHOT HARDLY DID HIM ANY DAMAGE.

SENTINEL LAMBDA ONE-NINE TOTALLY DYSFUNCTIONAL. REMAINING UNITS STILL EXECUTING PRIME OPERATIONAL DIRECTIVE.

TARGET GUTHRIE NEUTRALIZED BY FRIGI-BEAM.

ARRRGH!

SENTINEL LAMBDA-THREE CAPABLE OF EFFECTING CAPTURE OF TARGETS MANH AND SINCLAIR UNASSISTED. ADDITIONAL UNITS REQUIRED TO SECURE TARGET DaCOSTA.

UNIT LAMBDA SEVEN UNABLE TO ASSIST, CONDITION DETERIORATING. AM RETURNING TO BASE WITH TARGET GUTHRIE.

SHAN, IT'S GOT *SAM!* IT'S *FROZEN* HIM!

IS THERE NAUGHT WE CAN DO?!

IF HE'S UNCONSCIOUS RAHNE, I FEAR NOT.

BUT IF I CAN REACH HIS MIND, EVEN FOR A MOMENT...

C'EST TRÉS DIFFICILE! HIS PRISON OF ICE CHILLS HIM TO THE MARROW. BY POSSESSING HIM -- FORGING A PSYCHIC BOND BETWEEN US -- I FEEL MUCH OF WHAT HE DOES.

I RUN THE RISK OF BEING FROZEN, TOO.

CONTACT IS ESTABLISHED...

...AND SHAN RE-IGNITES CANNONBALL'S POWER, SENDING HIM STRAIGHT UP INTO THE AIR AT FULL THRUST.

THE SUDDEN, MASSIVE ACCELERATION PROVES TO BE FAR MORE THAN THE SENTINEL'S ALREADY OVER-LOADED SYSTEMS CAN HANDLE.

SHOOO

GIRL BECOMES WOLF AND-- USING ALL HER NASCENT STRENGTHS AND SKILLS AND INSTINCTS TO EVADE THE FINAL SENTINEL'S ATTEMPTS TO CAPTURE HER--

-- RACES INTO THE SHATTERED RUIN OF THE PARKING LOT.

I GOT ONE, STEVIE! I TORE THE MONSTER APART! DID YOU SEE?!

WE'VE BEEN BUSY, KIDDO.

BUT I WOULD YOU CARE TO TRY FOR TWO?

BIO!

WE HAVEN'T A PRAYER OF HOLDING THAT THING OFF-- SO WHAT DO I DO?! IF WE RESCUE SHAN, SHE'LL BREAK HER CONCENTRATION AND LOSE SAM. IF WE DON'T, WE'LL LOSE HER-- AND MAYBE THE BOY AS WELL.

I'M A DANCER-- A TEACHER-- WHAT AM I DOING MAKING LIFE OR DEATH DECISIONS?!

'BERTO, GRAB SHAN!

OBSERVATION: TARGET MANH IN SEMI-CATATONIC STATE.

CRITICAL THREAT LEVEL PROVIDED BY TARGET DaCOSTA AND ARMED HUMAN. SELF-PRESERVATION PROGRAM REQUIRES THAT THEY RECEIVE PRIMARY RESPONSE.

SKRAK!

WELL, AT LEAST WE GOT ITS ATTENTION.

LUCKY US.

CAREFUL, YOUNGSTER. THEY LEARN FROM THEIR MISTAKES. YOU'LL NEVER BEAT 'EM THE SAME WAY TWICE.

AT THAT MOMENT, SOME MILES HIGH, SHAN'S GAMBLE PAYS OFF...

... AS THE FRICTION OF CANNONBALL'S MADCAP ASCENT THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE MELTS HIS ICY PRISON.

SENSING THE INCREASED MENTAL RESISTANCE TO HER CONTROL THAT INDICATES SAM IS FULLY AWAKE, SHAN RELEASES HIM...

... MUCH TO HIS SURPRISE.

WH-WHERE AM I?

HOLY COW!!

HOW'D AH GET UP HERE?!?

IT DON'T MATTER, CAUSE I SURE CAN'T STAY-- THERE'S NO AIR T' BREATHE!

ROBOT DON'T LOOK TOO GOOD, EITHER-- AH MUST'A HURT HIM MORE'N AH FIGURED-- BUT AH CAN'T BREAK HIS GRIP.

OKAY, THEN--WE'LL DO IT THE HARD WAY.

MAH POWER AS CANNONBALL MAKES ME PRACTICALLY INVULNERABLE WHEN AH'M BLASTIN,' SO AH CAN SURVIVE TH' IMPACT. LET'S SEE IF THE SENTINEL'S AS TOUGH.

AH'LL WAIT TIL WE START TO FALL, THEN CUT LOOSE AT FULL POWER!

IT ISN'T.

NEITHER IS THE LAST MEMBER OF THE ILL-FATED ATTACK GROUP...

SPLAM!

...WHO HAS THE MISFORTUNE TO BE STANDING RIGHT ON THE SPOT WHERE SAM GUTHRIE LANDS.

BULLPEN BULLETINS

I'M BACK!

I hope you enjoyed last month's guest column by David Michelinie, who happens to be the brilliant, superstar scripter of *The Further Adventures of Indiana Jones*, among other things. And, in case you've forgotten me, I am Jim Shooter, Editor in Chief of Marvel Comics. That means I'm the *boss* here, folks! Neat, huh?

REQUEST OF THE MONTH

Ever since I mentioned *Shooter's Law of Mail* in one of my columns, I've been asked again and again if I've established any *other* "laws" governing Marvel Comics, and, if so, what are they. Okay. You asked for it, you *got* it. Here are some of...

SHOOTER'S LAWS

The First Law of Fair Play

No one works for free. Anyone who does any work assigned by a Marvel Editor will be fairly paid. No exceptions.

The Second Law of Fair Play

A creator's time is valuable. If we waste any of it, we pay fairly for it.

The Third Law of Fair Play

All creative people will be treated equally and fairly. There will be no caste system – no elite with special privileges and unfair advantages over other creators. Every person has equal rights. Editors will make creative judgements based upon a creators' *work*, not upon his name, or reputation. No one "deserves" special rights or privileges. Any special treatment granted to one creator is a stab in the back to all others.

The First Law of Mail

All mail *must* be opened and read by the person to whom it is addressed. No exceptions.

The Second Law of Mail

Mail from readers and fans should be treated with interest and respect. Those letters are from the people we work for. They're our bosses.

The Law of Dealing With Readers and Fans In Person

This should be done as often as possible, at conventions, comics stores, and anywhere else. Again, we work *for* these people, and they should be treated accordingly.

The Law of the Creation of Comics

The are *no rules* governing or limiting creativity. There is nothing which *must* be done and nothing which *cannot* be done. All things are possible. If something works, it *works*. If it doesn't work, never say it can't. There *is* a way. Try everything.

That's a few of them. There are others, of course. Maybe someday I'll list some more.

WORD HAS REACHED ME...

...that in a poll of British fans conducted by *Worlds Collide*, a classy British fan magazine, Marvel titles, series, and creators won *every single category* for which they were eligible. As you might expect, *Daredevil* and *The X-Men* were the big vote-getters. Thanks, Britain!

THAT'S IT...

...for now. Next month, be sure to tune in for a special feature – the first (and quite possibly the last!) *interview* to be published in this column. I'm going to be asking probing questions of the man who has more copies of his work in print that any other human being in the history of the world. That's right, the most widely published creator (of *anything*) in history – and, no, folks, it isn't Stan Lee. Not even close.

Till then,

Jim Shooter

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

- ☐ **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #98** — The Thing, and Franklin Richards.
- ☐ **TEAM AMERICA #11**
- ☐ **KA-ZAR #25**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #2**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #193**
- ☐ **DARK CRYSTAL #1**
- ☐ **SPIDER-WOMAN #49**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #239**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #280**
- ☐ **THOR #330 (See Hype Box)**
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER #79**
- ☐ **MOON KNIGHT #30**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #4**
- ☐ **DOCTOR STRANGE #69**
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #282**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #230**
- ☐ **CONAN #145**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #159** — Special *double-sized*, reprinting **Amazing Spider-Man Annual #1** by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO.
- ☐ **X-MEN # 166**
- ☐ **ROM #41**
- ☐ **POWER MAN/IRON FIST #92**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #10**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #253**
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #128** — Spider-Man and Captain America.
- ☐ **IRON MAN #169**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER #77**
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #118**
- ☐ **STAR WARS #70**
- ☐ **MASTER OF KUNG FU #123**
- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #4**
- ☐ **WHAT IF #38** — *"What If the Marvel Super Heroes Faced Old Age,"* featuring **Daredevil, Captain America,** the **Vision** and the **Scarlet Witch.**

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #96**
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #1**
- ☐ **BLIP #1** (See Hype Box)

MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVELS

- ☐ **#5: THE X-MEN** — by CHRIS CLAREMONT, BRENT ANDERSON and STEVE OLIFF. "God Loves; Man Kills."

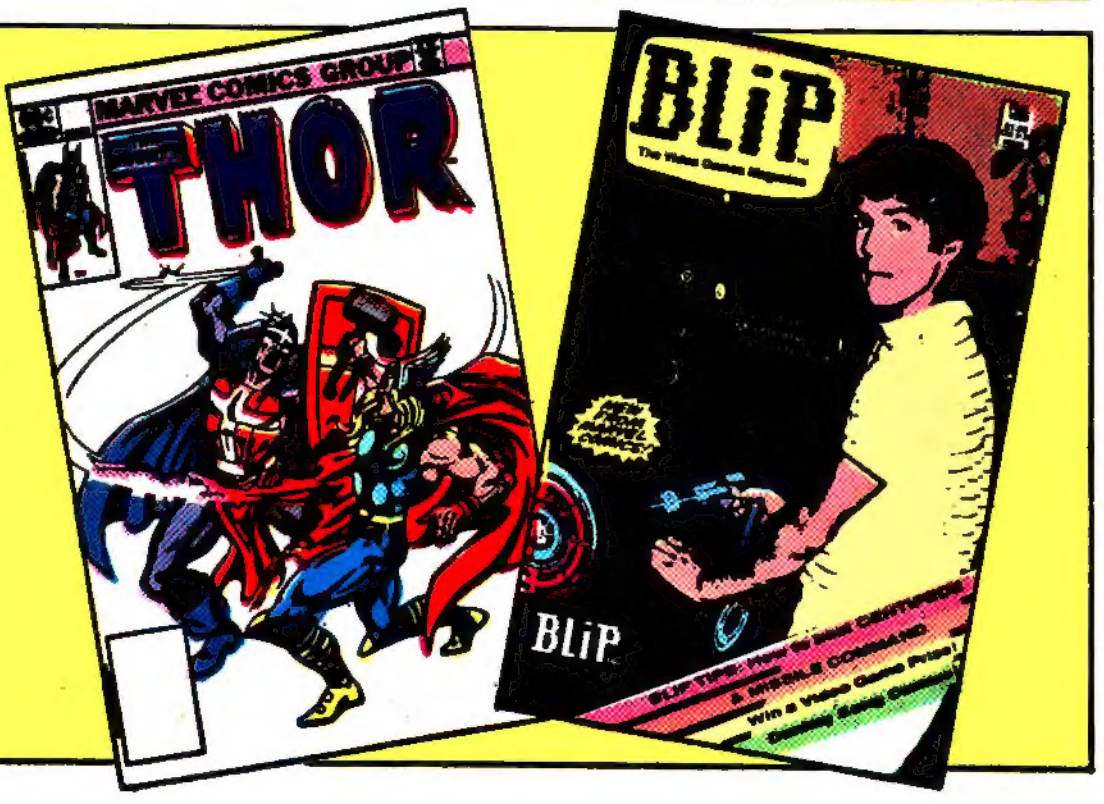
SPECIAL EVENTS

- ☐ **WARLOCK #5** — The representation of JIM STARLIN'S classic saga continues.
- ☐ **OBNOXIO VS. THE X-MEN #1** — *Crazy's Magazine's* notorious clown takes on the uncanny mutants in a tale unlike *anything* you might be expecting.

THE HYPE BOX

THOR #330 — A new era begins for the thunder god as the creative team of ALAN ZELENETZ and BOB HALL — who brought last summer's THOR ANNUAL so dramatically to life — combine once again (joined by veteran inking ace VINCE COLLETTA) to chronicle the adventures of Odin's favorite son. For starters, they've got Goldilocks up against the Crusader, whose mission is to wipe out all Pagans — including Norse deities! It's a stunner... and it's only the beginning.

BLIP #1 — "BLIP"? What's a "BLIP"? Why, merely Marvel's fantastic foray into some wild and exciting new territory! We think it's gonna be the most fun-packed and *fact*-packed Video Games magazine around — and with features like *Video Games of the Stars*, *Blip Tips on Strategy*, a six page Donkey Kong comic by STEVEN GRANT and BOB CAMP and a couple of captivating contests offering great prizes — we're betting you'll agree. Look for it.



WITHIN MINUTES THE POLICE ARE ON THE SCENE. THE NEW MUTANTS ARE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND. THE MEN WHO HUNTED THEM AREN'T QUITE SO LUCKY.

MY NAME IS JOHN OGILVIE...

HE'S BEEN CONFESSING SINCE WE GOT HER, CAP'N. WE CAN'T SHUT HIM UP.

SEARS

BURDINE

...ATTACHED TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL. MY SUPERIOR IS *HENRY PETER GYRICH*. I SUMMONED THE SENTINELS.

TAKE HIM AND HIS MEN DOWNTOWN, BUT DON'T BOOK 'EM TILL I'VE CHECKED WITH WASHINGTON. I'VE GOT A NASTY FEELING THAT THE MORE I LEARN ABOUT THIS...

...THE LESS I'M GONNA LIKE IT.

ALL RIGHT, SHAN. THAT'S ENOUGH. YOU CAN RELEASE YOUR HOLD ON HIM.

YOU DICTATED THAT "CONFESSION", ROSSI. SHAN'S POWER FORCED THAT MAN TO SAY IT.

WAS THIS A FRAME, A LIE, TO GET US OFF THE HOOK?

EVERY WORD WAS TRUE.

WHAT IS THIS? WHY AM I *HANDCUFFED?*

CUZ YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, DUMMY! WHY D'YOU THINK?

RELEASE ME AT ONCE! I'M A FEDERAL AGENT.

GET HIM OUTTA HERE!

IS HE A CRIMINAL, COLONEL?

ARE YOU, SHAN? HE WAS PREPARED TO CART YOU KIDS OFF TO THE FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENT OF A CONCENTRATION CAMP.

DO TWO WRONGS, THEN, MAKE A RIGHT?

MY BROTHER, TRANH, POSSESSED THE SAME POWER AS I. HE HAD NO COMPUNCTION ABOUT USING IT TO MANIPULATE--AND EVEN KILL--PEOPLE. I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO RESHAPE ME IN HIS IMAGE.

I'M NOT THE ENEMY.

YOUR PARDON, *M'SIEU*. BUT YOU DO NOT BEHAVE AS A FRIEND

THEN YOU HAVE A CHOICE TO MAKE, YOUNG LADY-- BECAUSE THE MAN WHO SENT THOSE AGENTS AND ROBOTS ISN'T FINISHED WITH YOU, NOT BY A LONG SHOT.

HOME. A SOMBER HALF-HOUR LATER...

STEVIE, I'VE FOUND *DANI* SHE'S IN THE *DANGER ROOM.*

AH THINK SHE'S BEEN *HURT!*

SHE LOOKS OKAY I'LL BREAK A VIAL OF AMMONIA UNDER HER NOSE. THAT SHOULD BRING HER AROUND.

KOFF! KOFF!!

NO! YOU WON'T GET ME! *GET AWAY!*

DANIELLE, STOP SCREAMING -- IT'S *US!*

SHE LOOKS SO SCARED. WHA' COULD'VE HAPPENED T' HER?

MAYBE THOSE ROBOTS TRIED T' GET HER AN' THE PROFESSOR, TOO.

STEVIE!

EYES WIDE, VOICE STAMMERING WITH REMEMBERED HORROR, DANI RELATES HER EXPERIENCE IN THE DANGER ROOM.

YOU KNOW THE RULES, DANI. YOU'RE *NEVER* TO USE THE ROOM WITHOUT A TEACHER. OUT OF IGNORANCE OR CARELESSNESS, COULDN'T YOU HAVE TRIGGERED THAT ADVANCED SEQUENCE?

I DIDN'T, STEVIE. HONEST! AND EVEN IF I DID, I WAS FIRST ATTACKED *OUTSIDE* THE DANGER ROOM! DON'T ANY OF YOU BELIEVE ME?

FROM DANI'S DESCRIPTION, SHE ENCOUNTERED ONE OF THE CREATURES WHO KIDNAPPED THE *X-MEN* MONTHS AGO. BUT I THOUGHT THERE WEREN'T ANY LEFT ON EARTH.

MORE TO THE POINT, ONLY THREE PEOPLE ARE AUTHORIZED TO CANCEL THE COMPUTER SAFETY INTERLOCKS; ME, MOIRA MacTAGGERT AND CHARLES. MOIRA'S IN SCOTLAND AND I WAS WITH THE KIDS ALL DAY.

THAT LEAVES CHARLES.

UPSTAIRS IN HIS STUDY, XAVIER LIES ASLEEP, UNAWARE OF THE ASTRAL IMAGE OF A YOUNG QUEEN OF THE BROOD APPEARING ABOVE HIM...

...JUST AS HE IS UNAWARE OF ITS BODY GROWING WITHIN HIM, EAGERLY AWAITING THE MOMENT OF ITS BIRTH... WHEN XAVIER'S METAMORPHOSIS FROM HUMAN TO ALIEN WILL BE COMPLETE.

NEXT ISSUE: **NIGHTMARES**

MINUTEMEN

Quick STOP

RST